Scheme to all districts of the country will also contribute to increase in consumption demand and, hence, growth of the economy. Steps are being taken to improve credit availability to the priority sectors of the economy. At the same time, the Government has increased its allocation for infrastructure programmes like National Highway Development Project, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, as well as on education, health, and training and skill upgradation that will help in addressing some of the supply side constraints on sustaining the high growth rate and in improving the level of productivity of the economy.

The Government has undertaken a number of steps to check inflation. This includes maintaining strict fiscal discipline, rationalisation of excise and import duties on essential commodities, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies and procurement by public agencies. The Reserve Bank of India, through appropriate monetary policy measures complements Government's efforts to check inflation.

Recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission

2390. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has accepted the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if not, by when Government proposes to take a decision in the matter;

(c) whether the Defence Force have made any grievance before Government regarding the recommendations;

(d) whether Government has powers to modify the recommendations of the Commission in their applicaton;

(e) whether Government proposes to give financial assistance to the smaller States proposing to adopt the recommendations for the employees of the State Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply to (e) above.

Reduction in customs duty of edible oils

2391. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty on certain commodities like edible oil has been reduced during the last one year to check rising trend of prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with their impact on the prices of such commodities at the retail level during the same period, commodity-wise;

(c) whether reduction in customs duty on certain commodities has adversely affected the revenue front and also the domestic produces;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) To cushion the impact of rising international prices, Government has reduced the customs duty on commodities such as edible oils, rice and wheat flour since July 2007.

(b) Details of reduction in customs duty on commodities are at the statement-I and their daily month end prices (ex-Delhi) are at the statement-II. (*See below*)

(c) to (e) Although a reduction in customs duty would normally affect the revenue collection attributable to the commodity, the duty rates are decided on the basis of a number of factors including the international and domestic prices, the interests of the consumers, the impact on domestic producers and administrative feasibility of collection and revenue.

Statement-I

The details of reduction in customs duty on Commodities

* 23.7.2007;
  - (a) Crude palm oil including crude palmolein from 50% to 45%;
  - (b) Refined Palmoil including RBD palmolein from 57.5% to 52.5%
  - (c) Soyabean oils from 45% to 40%
  - (d) Crude sunflower oil from 50% to 40%; and
  - (e) Refined sunflower oil from 60% to 50%.
* 26.12.2007: Wheat flour from 30% to nil.
* 20.3.2008 (w.e.f. 21.3.2008):
  - (a) Crude palmoil including crude palmolein from 45% to 20%;
  - (b) Refined palmoil including RBD palmolein from 52.5% to 27.5%;
  - (c) Crude Mustard/rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 20%;
  - (d) Refined Mustard/rapeseed/colza/canola oils from 75% to 27.5%;
  - (e) Crude sunflower oil from 40% to 20%;
  - (f) Refined sunflower oil from 50% to 27.5%;
  - (g) Semi-milled and wholly milled rice from 70% to nil for imports made on or before 31.3.2009.
* 1.4.2008:
  - (a) soyabean oil (crude) from 40% to Nil and on soyabean oil (refined) from 40% to 7.5%;
  - (b) Crude Palm oil (including crude palmolein) from 20% to Nil and on RBD palm oil (including RBD palmolein) from 27.5% to 7.5%;
  - (c) All other miscellaneous edible oils (crude) such as coconut oil, groundnut, etc. to Nil;
  - (d) All other miscellaneous edible oils (refined) such as coconut oil, groundnut, etc. to 7.5%
  - (e) partly or wholly hydrogenated vegetable fats and oils commonly known as 'vanaspati', margarine, etc. to 7.5%

Statement-II

Details of Daily Month End Prices of Selected Essential Commodities at Delhi

Unit (Rs/Kg)

Commodity	Apr-07	May-07	Jun-07	Jul-07	Aug-07	Sept-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08*
Rice	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	16.00	15.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Wheat	12.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Atta	13.00	12.00	12.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Groundnut Oil	100.00	103.00	103.00	107.00	118.00	118.00	119.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00	121.00
Mustard Oil	56.00	57.00	58.00	60.00	62.00	62.00	62.00	64.00	66.00	69.00	75.00	80.00	73.00
Vanaspati	56.00	57.00	57.00	59.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	62.00	62.00	68.00	69.00	78.00	75.00

*Prices as on 10.4.2008